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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/970,956

Examiner

Charles W. Stewart, Jr.

Applicant(s)

VARNON ET AL.

Art Unit

2853

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed November 2, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 6, 8-30 and 67-90.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 08 November 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/3/01
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


Stephen D. Meier
 Primary Examiner

Reason for Allowance

The following is a statement of reasons for allowable subject matter:

The inclusions of the claimed invention, as claimed in the combination of claims 1-48 are not found in the prior art. The difference is considered patentable over the prior art. Claims 1-4, 6, 8-9, 67-73 and 83 recites the limitation in the combination of changing the build materials and the support material from the non-flowable state to a flowable state after delivery of the build materials and the support material to the hopper; moving the build materials in the flowable state in the hopper to a build material receptacles of the dispensing device and moving the support material in the flowable state in the hopper to a support material receptacle of the dispensing device; and dispensing the build material in the build material and dispensing the support material in the support material receptacles by the dispensing device in the flowable state in a layerwise fashion to form the three-dimensional object and to form support for the three-dimensional object. Claims 10-21 and 74-82, recites the limitation in the combination of computer controller means connected to and cooperative with the build material feed system computer controller means adapted for processing to object data to control the solid freeform apparatus so build material is provided by the build material feed system when forming the three-dimensional object. Claims 22-30 and 84-90, recites the limitation in the combination of at least one dispensing device adjacent the build platform for dispensing the build material in the flowable state to form layers of the three-dimensional object, the dispensing device having at least one hopper for receiving the build material; at least one queue station for holding a plurality of discrete amounts of build material in a random

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order, the material residing in a non-flowable state. The claim combination reflects an improvement in the filed of endeavor and over the prior art of record.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Examiner Charles Stewart, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-2154.

Charles Stewart, Jr.

January 24, 2005



Stephen D. Meler
Primary Examiner